



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Signed in the name of the Keepers of the liberty of the Commonwealth of England by Ric. Bennett and Wm. Claiborne with their Seals.

(*Colonial Papers*, Vol. II, No. 52.)

THE FERRAR PAPERS

At Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Communicated by MICHAEL LLOYD FERRAR, Little Gidding,
Ealing, Eng.

(CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA SILK AND VIRGINIA FERRAR* (1626-1688).

Allusion has been made on p. 285 Vol. X., of this Magazine, to the silk industry of Virginia in the earlier days of the Settlement, when John Pory was Secretary, and to the later work in the same direction done by the Deputy John Ferrar's remarkable daughter Virginia. Among these Cambridge papers are a number relating to her, in print and in manuscript, which show the active part she took in the work and the very high esteem in which she was held, as well in Virginia as in London, by those interested in the New Dominion.

The writ of *Quo Warranto* issued by King James in 1624 put an end to the official connection of the Ferrars with the Settlement and in the following year they left London, with its *fumum et opus strepitumque*, for the calm retreat of Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire, where they established in the old Manor House the religious community which made such a name for itself in the reign of Charles I and excited the bigoted wrath of the Puritans of that time, resulting in the sacking by them of

*It would seem that the papers Mr. Ferrar describes are, to a considerable extent, the original material of "The Reformed Virginia Silk-Worm," reprinted in *Forces Tracts*. The verses addressed to Edward Digges are, therefore, already in print.

the Manor House and the adjacent church. But the Ferrars would not abandon their special work there, of teaching the Holy Scriptures to the young, healing the sick, compiling illustrated concordances of the Gospels, holding daily services in the church, Nicholas having been ordained a Deacon; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. And they did not forget Virginia, in which and the Bermuda islands they had plantations, and they kept up their connection with it long after Nicholas's death in 1637 and after John's death in 1657 : as is shown by these Cambridge papers and letters. In this, John's daughter Virginia actively assisted him while he lived, and she carried on the work after his death, at which time she was thirty-one years of age. She was born in 1626, on Christmas Eve and was christened on the following day, and his mother and Nicholas named her *Virginia*, "so that," John writes in his *Life of N. F.*, "speaking unto her, looking upon her, or hearing others call her by her name, he might think upon both at once. This is but by the bye; yet let me say, both grandmother and uncle loved her and liked her much the better for her name; and what further insight they had in giving her that name, let others conjecture." This last remark may allude to the fact that she was never married. [Mayor's *Two Lives of N. F.*] She lived with her brother John, who succeeded his Father, and died in 1688. The brother lived to 1719 when he died aged 89 [Mayor]. He also took a keen interest in furthering the Virginia silk industry and among the Cambridge paper is a long, four pages of foolscap, metrical address to "the most noble deserving Squire Diggs upon the arrival of his two Armenians out of Turkey into Virginia." It is signed "J. ff. Jun'." and has marginal corrections in his father's handwriting. It begins :

Where Wormes and Foode doe naturally abound
A gallant Silken Trade must there be found.
Virginia excells the World in booth.

"Envie nor Mallice can gaine say this troth."

* * * * *

ending with:—

"But Noble Diggs carryes the Bell away
Whose Ten pounds Silke now made must beare the sway.
His two Armenians from Turkey sent

Are now most busy on his brave attempt:
 And had his Stock suffition for nyx yeare
 Ten thousand pound of silk would then appeare.
 Loe heere what Mistris Mary Ward hath sent
 And to her Lady Cosen she presents
 Ten rare Bottoms* took from her Appell tree
 That all England may it beeleeve and see.
 Her honored kinsman Esquire Ferrar
 To conferme and make the wonder greater
 Ten more likewise hath sent her which he found
 On stately Oakes and Shrubs that kiss the ground:
 And Doctor Russell that learn'd Phisitian
 Hath with his made a fuller Addission:
 For things more slowly doe affect the mind
 Which eares doe heare than those that Eyes doe find†
 Now from Smoak Virginia shalbe raysd
 And throughout the Worlde be duly praysed.
 And blest be God that now in his due time
 This silken Light apparently doth shine.
 Then come, oh come! with sacred Lays
 Lett us sound the Almighty's prayse.

ffinis.

J. ff. Junr.

and underneath:—to Squire Diggs:

Courage, brave sir, syth Ayde from God is sent
 Goe on Proceed, Drive forth thy great intent.

(signed) VF (which are Virginia Ferrar's monogram,)

The following MS. is worth preserving in full:

To the honor'd Lady Mrs.
 Virginia Ferrar on her new
 discovery of the Silk-trade
 in those parts of the world.

How com'st thou, Lady, thus to guild thy leaves

* *I. e.*, cocoons.

† Here he literally translates Horace:

"Segnius irritant animos demissa per durem

Quam quod sunt oculis subjecta fiddibus."—*De Arte Poetica*.

With wonders from the shining silkworme's sleeves ?*
 What strange contextures this? Will you link either
 The famous Ends of both the Worlds together?
 Bind an apprentice faire Virginia
 To reap Persian harvests in America?
 Europe's thy quarter, England boasts thy birth;
 How thou Ally'd to the Asiatique Earth?
 Heroic Lady this bright golden mine
 Sprung in thy Soule, this happy-high-designe
 W'ch thou wast borne for, to enrich this land
 Plant Eden on thy deare Virginian strand.
 Wee need no more dispute what place did beare
 That blessed name, since heare thou art, 'tis there
 Thy now discovered profitable trade
 Makes the World yonge, as if it were new made.
 Thy unmeasur'd Bountyes dost so free dispençe
 As at the first in tymes of Innocence
 Merchants, Mechanick-Traders, poor, rich all
 Shall thee the Foundress of there Fortunes call.
 The Muses Darlings with there silver Tongues
 Yr Fame resound in there delightful Songs.
 Let thy dear Parent, pious Patriot, sage,
 Share in thine honor, glory of his Age.
 His Education and thy Virtuous Mind
 God's favour in this worke were all conjoined.

(S^d) MIGIPH, physitian.

There are other similar panegyrics on this remarkable young lady, but space prevents us from giving more of them here. She conducted her father's correspondence with his Virginia people while he lived, and some of the letters written to her in this time from Virginia are quaint and curious. Michall Upchurch, in his letter of 27th March, 1651, says he is sending her some curious things—a basket, skins of animals, a “flying hart's head and horns,” the “rattles of a rattlesnake,” a “crowne of a bird.” “This is all that I could provide to send you at present—nixt yeir I hope to be of better abilitie to serve you,” &c.,

* Sleeves means skeins of spun silk.

&c. P. S. "I have sent you a young live turtel in a glass bottel." We wonder how long it remained "live."

John Storing, writing to her (undated, but about 1650) thanks her for Books sent to him by her: "Some of them I sold but could get nothing for them. I have sent you a token, that is an Indian basket and three Indian Pipes and three for my mother, and I have sent you a sea tree and a oyster pearl, and there is with the rest of the things in the basket a roote for youre father as I am towld with great vertu in it," &c., &c.

One contemporaneously-printed tribute to her begins:

Come gallants, if yee w^d be brave
 And yet your pins and money save
 Throw off those sheepshair-clothes, be fine,
 Take silk, of if't like you, Satine.
 * * * * *

Had not you, sweet Cozen, made known
 How Silkworms feed and spin alone.
 This your deserts hath so set forth
 As that to match your matchless worth
 Ambition dares not aspire,
 Envie must sit still and admire.

I say no more lest that the Gods should hear:
 For if they should, they'll women turn, I fear.

(s^d)

JOHN COLLETT.

John Collett was son to her aunt, Susanna Ferrar, who married John Collett, and had many children, including eight daughters. Six of these married, the two unmarried ones being Mary and Anna. Mary is well known to the readers of "John Ingle-sant" and the various *Lives* of N. F. as having been the guiding spirit after old Mrs. Ferrar's death in 1634 of the Gidding community. She and Anna resolved when young never to marry and they adhered to their resolution, Mary dying unmarried at the age of 80. No record was kept, or exists, of Anna's death. There are many of her letters among the Cambridge papers under notice, including the one in which she declares her intention to remain unmarried. Both she and her sister became the adopted daughters of Nicholas and wrote themselves Ferrar instead of Collett.

They took no part in the Virginia business, the only woman, apparently, of the family who did this being Virginia, the subject of our sketch. She is not mentioned, beyond the above quoted record of her birth, in any of the Stories of Little Gidding.* It is fitting that the *Virginia Historical Magazine* should give her a niche in its gallery of those who did well for the young settlement in its early days.

M. LL. FERRAR, Little Gidding.

May 7th, 1903.

VIRGINIA IN 1638-39.

GOVERNOR WYATT'S COMMISSION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

(Abstracts by W. N. Sainsbury, and copies in the McDonald and De Jarnett Papers, Virginia State Library.)

(CONTINUED.)

ORDER IN REGARD TO PORTS IN VIRGINIA.

(Abstract.)

July 27, 1638.

Report of the Sub Committee for Foreign Plantations to the Lords of the Privy Council. On two petitions in the name of the Planters and Traders to Virginia. Complaining by the first that by an Order made in August last by the Governor there they are compelled to unlade all their goods at James Town only & offer reasons why the same is very inconvenient to them, the Sub Commit. conceive that no Master of a ship Should break bulk until he comes to James Town, but as the public Storehouse is gone to ruin & decay & there are few or no private

* Among the old letters is a pretty love letter addressed to her by her cousin, John Mapletoft, when an undergraduate at Cambridge, dated August 26, 1650. She was then 24, he 20 years of age. It came to nothing.